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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
Washington, D. C.

COUNTRY: China

SUBJECT: Iron and Steel Plants in North China

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Shihchingshan (near Peiping)

1. Blast Furnace

a. One blast furnace of 250 ton pig iron capacity daily. Old American type constructed in 1924; at present the furnace has been repaired and ready for operation.

b. One blast furnace of 380 ton pig iron capacity daily. Old German construction which had been transferred by the Japanese from Japan during the war. The furnace is "frozen in" and the casting house has been destroyed by fire during the Japanese surrender.

c. One blast furnace of 600 ton pig iron capacity daily. German construction which was transferred by the Japanese during the war to the above mentioned location. Furnace is about 75% completed. The materials are all on hand. However, due to labor difficulties. Furnace is not yet completed.

d. One blast furnace of 200 ton pig iron capacity daily. Built and operated by the Japanese. Shihchingshan has no steel plant that is operating as yet. Production of pig iron may start as soon as the Lung yen fields (20 miles south of Kalgan) can supply iron ore. The supply of coking coal can possibly come from the Kailan and Ching Hsing Mines at Shihchiachuang, which has recently been cut off by the Communists.

2. Coke Ovens

a. One hundred Lemet Solvay ovens (waste heat type) capacity 380 ton of coke daily. These ovens have been repaired and are ready for operation.

b. Thirty Nitetsu ovens (regenerative type) can be rebuilt into the compound type. Has capacity of 290 tons of coke daily. At present, they are under reconstruction.

c. Sixty-five Ouo ovens (compound type) are of Japanese construction, ready for operation, except for concrete foundation plate, buttress walls and chimney materials. Altogether, about 25% to be reconstructed whidh has not yet begun due to labor difficulties.

The latest plan of the National Reconstruction Commission is to transfer the Japanese steel plant of Hirohata (100 miles west of Osaka, Japan) to Peiping as part of reparations payment. This includes the following:

1. Blast furnace of 1,000 ton pig iron capacity daily.

2. Coke batteries (Kurada compound type), 150 oven chambers with a total capacity of 1500 tons of coke daily.

1 coal washing plant

1 sulphuric acid plant

The NRC also plans to transfer from Yawata (north Kyushu island), one steel plant consisting of an open hearth furnace and rolling mills.

Taiyuan, Shansi; Northwestern Steel and Iron Corp.

1. Blast Furnace

a. One blast furnace of 120 ton pig iron capacity daily. The furnace is a Krupp construction which is built and ready to operate.

b. One blast furnace of 70 ton pig iron capacity daily. The furnace is a Krupp construction and is ready to operate.

c. Two blast furnaces of 40 [illegible] ton pig iron capacity each daily. Built by the Japanese and operations started September 1943.

Taiyuan has the only steel plant in North China which operates an open hearth and rolling mills The plant is operating at present, however, the production capacity is unknown. Iron ore comes from the Chin-Cheng fields, South Shansi, while coking coal is mined 50 miles west of Taiyuan.

2. Coke Plants, Taiyuan

a. Thirty-six Hinselmann oven chambers (compound type) of 300 ton coke capacity daily.

b. The by-product plant produces motor benzol, ammonium sulphate (gypum process) and coal tar distillations.

Yangchuan, Shansi

1. Blast Furnaces

a. Two blast furnaces of thirty and sixty ton pig iron capacity daily. Has been under operation since 1920.

b. One blast furnace of twenty ton pig iron capacity daily. Constructed by the Japanese during the war.

Kailan (Tangshan) Iron Plant

1. Blast Furnaces

a. Twenty blast furnaces of 20 ton pig iron capacity daily. There is no steel plant at Kailan. The required coke is partly produced in native beehives and partly in Knowles ovens, a modernized beehive with a by-product recovery.

Tsingtao Iron Plant

1. Blast Furnaces

a. Three blast furnaces at 250 ton pig iron capacity each day totaling 750 ton per day.

b. No steel plant available; coke production same as in para. previous.

Lungyen Iron Plant (20 miles south of Kalgan)

1. Blast Furnaces

a. Ten blast furnaces at 20 ton pig iron capacity daily.

b. Four blast furnaces @ 50 ton pig iron capacity daily.

c. No steel plant available; coke production same as in para. Kailan Iron Plant.

Mongolian Iron Plant (approx. two miles south of Lungyen).

1. Blast Furnaces

a. Five blast furnaces at 50 ton pig iron capacity each per day.

b. No steel plant available; coke production same as in paragraph Kailan Iron Plant.

c. The pig iron production in small furnaces was speeded up by the Japanese during the war. The pig iron was shipped to Japan for refining.

Ching Hsing Mines and Coke Plant (Shinchiachuang).

1. This is the first coke plant built on modern lines in China; under operation since 1925.

a. Twenty waste heat ovens (Otto type)

b. Ten regenerative ovens (Hesselman type).

c. The total production capacity is 100 tons of coke daily. The by-product plant recovers motor benzol, liquid ammonium, 20% NH_3, coal tar, pitch, and naphthalene.

NOTE: Only the Taiyuan and Shinchiachuang plants are under operation at present.